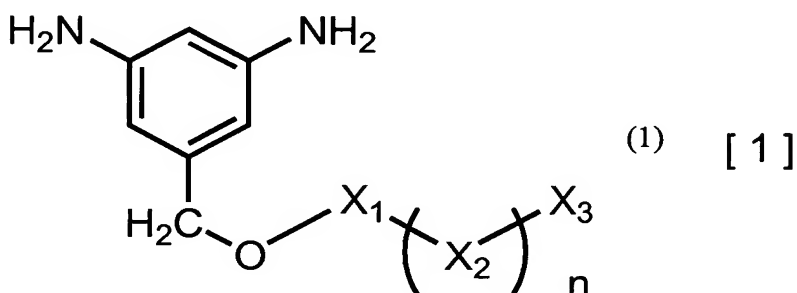


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A diaminobenzene derivative represented by the formula (1):



wherein  $X_1$  and  $X_2$  are each independently a eyelie monocyclic group selected from a benzene ring, a cyclohexane ring and a heterocyclic ring, wherein optional hydrogen atom(s) on the eyelie monocyclic group may be substituted by substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of a  $C_{1-3}$  alkyl group, a  $C_{1-3}$  alkoxy group, a  $C_{1-3}$  fluoroalkyl group, a  $C_{1-3}$  fluoroalkoxy group, a fluorine atom, a chlorine atom, a bromine atom and a cyano group[[,]];  $n$  is an integer of 0 or 1[[,]]; and  $X_3$  is a member selected from the group consisting of a  $C_{1-32}$  alkyl group, a  $C_{1-32}$  alkoxy group, a  $C_{1-32}$  fluoroalkyl group, a  $C_{1-32}$  fluoroalkoxy group, a fluorine atom, a chlorine atom, a bromine atom and a cyano group.

Claim 2 (Original): The diaminobenzene derivative according to Claim 1, wherein in the formula (1),  $X_1$  is a benzene ring or a cyclohexane ring,  $X_2$  is a benzene ring or a cyclohexane ring, and  $n$  is 1.

Claim 3 (Original): The diaminobenzene derivative according to Claim 1, wherein in the formula (1),  $X_1$  is a benzene ring or a cyclohexane ring,  $X_2$  is a benzene ring, and  $n$  is 1.

Claim 4 (Original): The diaminobenzene derivative according to Claim 1, wherein in the formula (1),  $X_1$  is a benzene ring or a cyclohexane ring,  $X_2$  is a cyclohexane ring, and  $n$  is 1.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The diaminobenzene derivative according to Claim 2, ~~3 or 4~~, wherein  $X_3$  is an organic group selected from the group consisting of a  $C_{5-12}$  alkyl group, a  $C_{5-12}$  alkoxy group, a  $C_{5-8}$  fluoroalkyl group, and a  $C_{5-8}$  fluoroalkoxy group.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A polyimide precursor or a polyimide ~~synthesized by using~~ obtained by reaction of an acid dianhydride with a diamine starting material comprising ~~any one the~~ diaminobenzene derivative as defined in ~~any one of Claims Claim~~ Claim 1 to 5, as a part of the material.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A ~~treating~~ liquid crystal alignment agent for liquid crystal alignment ~~containing~~ comprising at least one of the polyimide precursor and the polyimide as defined in Claim 6.

Claim 8 (New): The diaminobenzene derivative according to Claim 3 wherein  $X_3$  is an organic group selected from the group consisting of a  $C_{5-12}$  alkyl group, a  $C_{5-12}$  alkoxy group, a  $C_{5-8}$  fluoroalkyl group and a  $C_{5-8}$  fluoroalkoxy group.

Claim 9 (New): The diaminobenzene derivative according to Claim 4 wherein  $X_3$  is an organic group selected from the group consisting of a  $C_{5-12}$  alkyl group, a  $C_{5-12}$  alkoxy group, a  $C_{5-8}$  fluoroalkyl group and a  $C_{5-8}$  fluoroalkoxy group.

Claim 10 (New): A polyimide precursor or a polyimide obtained by reaction of an acid dianhydride with a diamine starting material comprising any one diaminobenzene derivative as claimed in Claim 2.

Claim 11 (New): A polyimide precursor or a polyimide obtained by reaction of an acid dianhydride with a diamine starting material comprising any one diaminobenzene derivative as claimed in Claim 3.

Claim 12 (New): A polyimide precursor or a polyimide obtained by reaction of an acid dianhydride with a diamine starting material comprising any one diaminobenzene derivative as claimed in Claim 4.

Claim 13 (New): A polyimide precursor or a polyimide obtained by reaction of an acid dianhydride with a diamine starting material comprising any one diaminobenzene derivative as claimed in Claim 5.

Claim 14 (New): A liquid crystal alignment agent comprising at least one of the polyimide precursor and the polyimide as claimed in Claim 10.

Claim 15 (New): A liquid crystal alignment agent comprising at least one of the polyimide precursor and the polyimide as claimed in Claim 11.

Claim 16 (New): A liquid crystal alignment agent comprising at least one of the polyimide precursor and the polyimide as claimed in Claim 12.

Claim 17 (New): A liquid crystal alignment agent comprising at least one of the polyimide precursor and the polyimide as claimed in Claim 13.

Claim 18 (New): A liquid crystal alignment layer made of the liquid crystal alignment agent as claimed in Claim 7.

Claim 19 (New): A liquid crystal alignment layer made of the liquid crystal alignment agent as claimed in Claim 14.

Claim 20 (New): A liquid crystal device comprising the alignment layer as claimed in Claim 18.